

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

NEA-10 TRSE-00 MBFR-03 SAJ-01 ACDA-19 CU-04 AEC-11

IO-13 OIC-04 EB-11 RSR-01 /167 W
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P R 181857 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1100

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION BERLIN

USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 16784

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y R E N U M B E R P A R A S 6 - 7 - 8 T O 5 - 6 - 7

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FR, UR

SUBJECT: BREZHNEV VISIT, JUNE 25-27-- A GESTURE TOWARD FRANCE

1. SUMMARY: BREZHNEV'S VISIT TO FRANCE JUNE 25-27
ON HIS RETURN HOME FROM WASHINGTON IS
CONSIDERED IN PARIS AS MAINLY A GESTURE TOWARD FRANCE, AND
WEST EUROPEANS GENERALLY, AIMED AT UNDERMINING
ALLEGATIONS OF US- SOVIET " COLLUSION" AND REAFFIRMING FRENCH
SOVIET SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP". DATES OF VISIT, REVEALED IN
SURPRISE ELYSEE ANNOUNCEMENT JUNE 17,
WERE EVIDENTLY AGREED UPON ONLY A FEW DAYS AGO. WE
EXPECT FOCUS OF POMPIDOU- BREZHNEV TALKS TO BE ON
MAJOR POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS CURRENTLY UNDER WAY IN
EUROPE -- ESPECIALLY, US- EC RELATIONSHIP, CSCE, MBFR,
AND EC STATES' RELATIONS WITH MOSCOW. NO DOUBT TALKS,
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WHICH RECIPROCATE POMPIDOU DISCUSSIONS WITH BREZHNEV IN BELORUSSIA LAST JANUARY, WILL ALSO TOUCH ON MIDDLE EAST AND VIETNAM AS WELL AS FRENCH- SOVIET BILATERAL TIES.
END SUMMARY.

2. ELYSEE ANNOUNCEMENT LATE JUNE 17 THAT BREZHNEV WILL VISIT FRANCE JUNE 25-27 EN ROUTE HOME FROM TALKS WITH PRESIDENT NIXON CAUGHT PARIS BY SURPRISE. RUMORS HAD CIRCULATED HERE FOR SOMETIME THAT BREZHNEV MIGHT VISIT FRANCE IN 1973, PARTICULARLY ABOUT THE TIME OF HIS VISIT TO US. (SEE PARIS 05911, PARA 2). QUAI OFFICERS, HOWEVER, CONSISTENTLY DISAVOWED KNOWLEDGE OF ANY PLANS FOR SUCH VISIT, AND ELYSEE SOURCES REMAINED TOTALLY SILENT ON THE MATTER.

3. ASSISTANT ELYSEE PRESS SPOKESMAN ROUGAGNOU HAS INDICATED TO LOCAL PRESS CORPS THAT DATES FOR BREZHNEV STOPOVER WERE DECIDED UPON WHEN ITALIAN PRESIDENT LEONE RECENTLY INDICATED HE WOULD HAVE TO CANCEL HIS PLANNED JUNE 25-29 VISIT HERE. FOLLOWING THIS, PRESIDENT POMPIDOU INVITED BREZHNEV TO VISIT FRANCE ON HIS RETURN HOME FROM US. EVIDENTLY, BREZHNEV ACCEPTED INVITATION ONLY A FEW DAYS AGO -- THUS REQUIRING CHANGE IN HIS DEPARTURE FROM WASHINGTON (FROM JUNE 26 TO JUNE 25).

4. FRONTPAGE EDITORIAL LE MONDE UNDERSCORES " SUCCESS FOR POMPIDOU", WHICH BREZHNEV STOPOVER HERE REPRESENTS. WELL- INFORMED LE MONDE ANALYST MAURICE DE LAURE BELIEVES BREZHNEV SIT MAINLY A " GESTURE" TOWARDS FRANCE " AND BEYOND THIS TOWARD WESTERN EUROPEAN GENERALLY -- TO UNDERCUT SPECULATION ABOUT POSSIBLE US- SOVIET COLLUSION " OVER THE HEADS" OF WESTERN EUROPEANS AND GENERALLY TO COUNTERBALANCE MOSCOW' S RECENT ATTENTION TO TIES WITH US. SOVIETS MAY HOPE BREZHNEV STOPOVER WILL ALSO HELP DISPEL POSSIBLE EUROPEAN CONCERNS OVER WARNINGS BY CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTER CHI P' ENG- FEI, DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO PARIS (SEPTEL). THAT MOSCOW SEEKS HEGEMONY OVER WESTERN EUROPE.

5. IN TALK WITH EMBOFF JUNE 18, ELYSEE DIPLOMATIC
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ADVISOR LEFT IMPRESSION POMPIDOU- BREZHNEV TOUR D' HORIZON WILL CONCENTRATE PRIMARILY ON EUROPE. BOTH LEADERS ARE EXPECTED TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON THEIR RECENT SUMMIT TALKS WITH PRESIDENT NIXON AND VARIOUS EUROPEAN LEADERS. FOCUS MAY BE PARTICULARLY ON EVOLVING RELATIONS BETWEEN EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND US, ON ONE HAND, USSR ON THE OTHER. COMING ON EVE OF CSCE MINISTERIAL, SLATED TO

OPEN JULY 3 IN HELSINKI, THE STOPOVER WILL PROVIDE
OPPORTUNITY FOR BREZHNEV AND POMPIDOU TO CONGRATULATE
ONE ANOTHER ON THEIR LEADING ROLES IN PAVING THE WAY
TO CSCE. ON MBFR, IF BREZHNEV SEEKS ONCE MORE TO DRAW
FRANCE INTO CLOSER
CONNECTION WITH VIENNA TALKS, WE HAVE WORD OF ELYSEE
DIPLOMATIC ADVISOR THAT FRENCH SEE EVEN LESS REASON NOW
THAN DURING BELORUSSIA SUMMIT TO CHANGE THEIR NEGATIVE
POSITION. BEYOND EUROPE, TALKS HERE WILL SURELY ALSO
PROVIDE OCCASION FOR EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON MIDDLE EAST AND
SE ASIA DEVELOPMENTS.

6. ON BILATERALS, POMPIDOU AND BREZHNEV MAY REVIEW PLANS
FOR STREAMLINING GRANDE AND PETITE COMMISSIONS, PRIOR
TO SCHEDULED EARLY JULY MEETINGS OF THESE GROUPS. DOUBTLESS
SOME ATTENTION WILL ALSO BE GIVEN TO PROGRESS IN EFFORTS TO
DOUBLE TRADE BETWEEN 1970 AND 1974.

7. DURING JUNE 18 LUNCHEON MARKING DE GAULLE'S 1940 APPEAL
TO FRENCH TO CONTINUE STRUGGLE AGAINST HITLER, PREMIER MESSMER
SAID GOF FINDS BREZHNEV STOPOVER IN PARIS " PERFECTLY NATURAL".
MESSMER NOTED VISIT HERE WILL RETURN POMPIDOU'S JANUARY VISIT
TO MINSK. OBVIOUSLY PLEASED WITH BREZHNEV DECISION TO COME HERE,
ESSMER ALLUDED TO FRENCH- SOVIET " SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP", ASKING
RHETORICALLY WHAT PEOPLE WOULD THINK IF BREZHNEV " HAD DECIDED
TO STOP OVER IN ANY OTHER EUROPEAN CAPITAL."
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